

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The New Year's Challenge.

Young man,
What is your plan
Of progress? Are you
Going to pull through?
Or will you lie down in the road
And let your load
Sink you out of sight
In the mud?
Have you white
Blood,
And pale,
That curdles at the hard word
"Fail,"

And dares not face
The chances of the race?
Or, have you red, clear red,
The good strong color
All the great have shed
In deed or thought,
For every triumph wrought
Out of what seemed full
Of the impossible?
Have you the nerve
To serve
Until you can be master? To wait
And work outside the gate
Until you win
The strength to open it and enter
in?

Have you the heart to meet
Defeat
Day after day,
And yet hold to the way
That upward leads,
And must needs
Be hard and rough
To make man tough
Of sinew and of soul,
Before he sees the goal;—
So, when it is attained,
He shall have strength to hold
What he has gained,
And use it so
That it to greater good shall grow?
Young man,
Think on these things.
What each one brings
Is as your choose it;
You may take
The stake,
Or you may lose it.
Start in
To win
And keep straight in the way
Unflagging to the end;
Whatever it may be
Is victory.

—William J. Lampton in "Success."

Games for Children.

From time to time directions for the playing of some excellent and lively games and for clever sleight-of-hand tricks have been published in the "American Boy." Believing that they could be made a source of entertainment at winter parties, we reproduce a few herewith.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT

Suspend a small piece of cotton wrapping thread, such as merchants use for tying up parcels, from the top of the inside of a glass show case, letting one end hang free. Let the string be five or six inches long, and be fastened to the under side of the top of the show case with a bit of wax, or with a tack or pin stuck into the rib of the show case, if there be one near the center. Shut the doors

of the show case, and then, with a perfectly dry hand—for instance, the back of one's hand is usually dryer than the palm—rub the glass near where the string is suspended, quickly, but not too hard, and the string will soon begin to swing backward and forward, and finally bend up and cling to the glass and wriggle around as if it were alive. This experiment will not only be amusing, but will set you thinking. The experiment will not work in summer, so you will have to keep it for winter, or any time after the first frost in the fall.

FINDING THE MARKED COIN.

Place the pennies in a hat, then hand it around, one of the guests being requested to remove one, and one only, of the coins, and to mark it, by scratching it with a penknife. Induce the same person to hold it as long as possible in the hand in order that the penny may become warm. All the coins, by the way, in the first instance, should come from a very cool place—if possible, from the ice box, or cold outdoor air. The hat should now be covered with a silk handkerchief and be passed to you as quickly as possible. You immediately thrust your hand beneath the covering and detect, by the warmth of the coin which has been handled, the marked one. Do not, however, make the fact instantly known, but appear to hesitate before selecting the penny.

CAT AND RAT.

The players form a circle with hands clasped. One is chosen for cat, who stands outside of the circle and tries to catch another in the center, who is the rat. The players forming the circle try to help the rat by raising their hands to let him run under them, but try to keep the cat from breaking through the circle. When the rat is caught he joins the circle, the cat becomes rat, and a new cat is chosen.

NUMBERS CHANGE

The players are numbered and stand in a circle. The player who is "it" stands in the center and calls two numbers. The players whose numbers are called must change places, while the player who is "it" tries to get one of their places. The player who is left without a place becomes "it."

BEAN BAG BOX.

Fasten a small box inside of one about twice the size, and that in a third, leaving at least six inches margin between the boxes. This, inclined, is placed ten feet from the throwing line. Each player has five bags. Bags thrown into the smallest box count five points, into the middle box ten points. The player scoring the largest number of points wins.

SQUAT TAG IN A CIRCLE

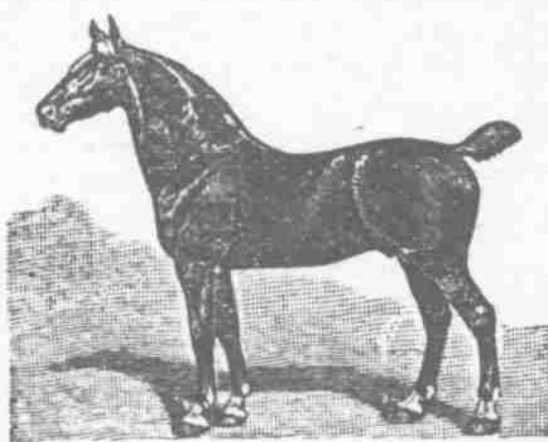
One player stands in the center of the circle, and tries to tag someone in the circle, who must "squat" to avoid being caught. If tagged before he squats, he must take his turn in the center.

To Make Cows Pay, use Sharpless Cream Separators. Book "Business Dairying" and Cat. 285 free. W. Chester, Pa.

The Tiny Earth and the Vast Universe.

A young correspondent has written asking for some information as to the vast spaces in our Universe. I do not believe that I can do better than copy what I have already written in "Forward" on this subject.

Geographers estimate that the oceans and seas of our globe contain over 373,000,000,000,000 gallons of water, if any one can conceive what that vast amount really means. Surely the finest possible grain of sand tossed about in that mighty volume is indeed a tiny object in comparison, and one to be ignored. Yet, microscopic as it seems, it is far larger in proportion than is our earth in the vast volume of space which is contained round us in that part of the universe easily reached by the unaided eye. For astronomers finding a mile much too small a unit for their stupendous measurements, have created "light years" as their gauge of distance. Now, a "light year" is that distance which light will travel in one year; and light rushes through space about one hundred and eighty-six thousand miles a second, or travels in a year a journey that would take an express train over eleven million years to accomplish. For light, in one second, has gotten over ten days ahead of sound, both starting at the same instant. Taking our sun as a center of a globe of space on the circumference of which is our nearest stellar neighbor, Alpha Centauri, we have a space containing 70,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 square miles. Now, Alpha Centauri is only four and one-third light years away from us, while Vega, at a distance of ninety-six light years, calls for figures so vast in their meaningless quantity that the printer would surely rebel at sparing the hundreds of ciphers required to set them forth. Well has the poet sung of man: "Who sounds with a tiny plummet, who scans with a purblind eye, The depth of that fathomless ocean, the wastes of the limitless sky." —Dr. Eugene Murray-Aaron, in Cram's Magazine for November.



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